and speed of passenger/goods local trains imported;

(c) what amount of investment/foreign exchange involved in this transaction and amount already invested in India by ABB so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Ministry of Railways have no comments to offer in respect of report published in the Hindustan Times dated 20th October, 1992, as it relates to the Press Conference addressed by the representatives of M/s. ABB.

(b) (i) Does not arise.

(ii) The Advance letter of Acceptance to M/s. ABB also involves transfer of technology to India.

(iii) Does not arise as import involved is for electric locos and not for passenger/goods local trains.

(c) The amount of foreign exchange involved in the purchase of 6000 HP 3 phase electric locomotives alongwith transfer of technology and supply of special tools, Jigs, fixtures, maintenance spares and testing kits etc. on FOB basis in Swiss Francs—169,689,970 and Deutsche Marks—139,140,250. Ministry of Railways have no comments to offer regarding amount already invested in India by ABB so far.

Book Stalls on Railways

2530. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per policy letter No. 73/TG III/461/9/IMP Delhi-14-10/1980 & 73 TG III/461/9/IMP/PTI dated 24th February, 1984, the existing book stall contractor of unemployed graduate partnership firm have the right to get upto 12 book stalls on the Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that in response to the advertisement, various applications received from unemployed graduates including partnership firms and interview was held on 19th October, 1992 by the Screening Committee for award of book stall contract at Anand Vihar Station; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not deciding the case on merit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir. As per Policy, Zonal Railways may allot additional book stall (s) beyond five but upto a ceiling limit of 12 to individual partnerships of unemployed graduates without obtaining prior approval of Ministry of Railways subject to satisfactory performance of the partnerships.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In response to press advertisement dated 11-8-1992 notified by Delhi Division, for award of a Book stall contract at Anand Vihar station, 7 candidates applied who were invited for an interview. Only 3 candidates appeared before the Screening Committee, and none was found to be suitable.

अलाभकर रेलवे लाइनों को लाभकर बनाया जाना

2531. श्री मूलचन्द मीणा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अलाभकर रेलवे लाइनों को लाभकारी लाइनों में परिवर्तित करने की कोई योजना बनाई गई है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि धौलपुर-सरमथुरा मीटर गेज लाइन के कारण रेलवे को हानि हो रही है; यदि हां तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस लाइन को लाभकारी बनाने के उद्देश्य से इस रेलवे लाइन को सरमथुरा से गंगापुर शहर तक जोड़ने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां तो ऐसा कब तक किया जाएगा; और

(घ) क्या धौ-सरमथुरा नगुरीटर गेज लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में परिवर्तित करने की योजना के अंतर्गत लाया जाएगा, यदि हां तो कब तक ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) रेलों की अर्थक्षमता में सुधार लाने के उद्देश्य से परिचालन हानियों को न्यूनतम करने, टिकट जांच सहन करने अनिवार्य कर्मचारी को कम से कम तैनात करने जैसे उपाय निरन्तर किए जाते हैं।

(ख) जी हां, धौलपुर-सरमथुरा खण्ड क्षेत्र में पर्याप्त और सुविधाजनक सड़क परिवहन सुविधाएं उपलब्ध होने के कारण इस खण्ड में रेल सेवाएं कम लोकप्रिय हैं;

(ग) और (घ) आमान परिवर्तन की कार्य योजना के आगामीचरण में प्रस्तावित मार्ग के बारे में विचार किया जाएगा;

Conversion of Railway Line from Hissar to Bhiwani

2532. SHRI RAMJI LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to convert Hissar to Bhiwani railway line into a Board Gauge railway line;

(b) if so, by when the conversion work has been started on priority basis;

(c) whether it is a fact that Hissar has not been linked with the State Capital, Chandigarh, through a super fast train due to lack of a broad gauge line; and

(d) if so, by when the Bhiwani Super Fast Train is likely to start via Hissar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) The Railway has been asked to study and furnish cost estimate and projection of traffic. Further action will depend on results of this study and availability of resources in the coming years.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Due to lack of traffic justification and resources.

Extension of Nauchandi Express Train upto Saharanpur

2533. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to extend the Nauchandi Express train, now running between Allahabad and Meerut, upto Saharanpur;

(b) whether any representations on behalf of the Meerut citizens and travelling public have been received by Government against this proposal; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sufficient accommodation for passengers originating at Meerut will be provided on the train. Moreover, Sangam Express for Allahabad will continue to originate at Meerut.

Progress of conversion of Metre Gauge Line from Bangalore-Arasikere Section

2534. SHRI J. P. JAVALI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work relating to the conversion of metre gauge line into broad gauge in respect of Bangalore-Arasikere section is under progress;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the programme for conversion of Arasikere-Miraj and Hospet-Hubli sections from metre gauge to broad gauge ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This 161 kms line is being converted to BG and is targetted for completion during 1992-93. Section will be progressively opened from Bangalore end.